

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MTN GE 00396 201829Z

42

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 STRE-00 USIE-00 AGR-10

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05

CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 PRS-01 SP-02

FEAE-00 OMB-01 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 NEA-10 /137 W

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P R 201735 ZJAN 76

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1048

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS MTN GENEVA 396

PASS STR ELECTRICALLY

PASS TREASURY FOR INFO

PASS USIA/IEU, KORDEK; USIA/IOP, RICHARDSON FOR INFO

H PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO ITC RECOMMENDATIONS ON SPECIALTY STEEL:

EC DENIES ACCURACY OF NEW YORK TIMES STORY

1. JAN 20 INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE CARRIED REPLY
OF JAN 19 NEW YORK TIMES STORY ON ITC FINDING ON
SPECIALTY STEEL. TRIB STORY ENTITLED "EEC TO WARN US ON
STEEL IMPORT BARS." ITEM QUOTED PAUL LUYTEN, HEAD OF EEC
GENEVA DELEGATION, AS FEARING "THAT A 'FLOOD' OF PROTEC-
TIONIST REQUESTS WOULD BE UNLEASHED BY FRIDAY'S DECISION.
HE WARNED OF TROUBLES AHEAD FOR THE MULTILATERAL TRADE
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PAGE 02 MTN GE 00396 201829Z

NEGOTIATIONS." TRIB ALSO CARRIED SHORT AP/DOW JONES
REPORT ON JAPANESE REACTION.

2. LUYTEN MADE POINT OF CALLING MTN DELEGATION TODAY TO
DENY ACCURACY OF STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO HIM. HE CLAIMED
TO HAVE REFERRED TIMES REPORTER CLYDE FARNSWORTH TO
BRUSSELS FOR REACTION, STATING, FURTHERMORE, THAT A
BRUSSELS REACTION WOULD PROBABLY DEPEND ON RECEIPT AND
ANALYSIS OF THE DETAILS OF THE CASE.

3. DECISION HAS BEEN GIVEN WIDE COVERAGE BY MAJOR EUROPEAN
NEWSPAPERS AVAILABLE THUS FAR IS GENEVA. FRONT PAGE STORY
IN MONDAY'S FINANCIAL TIMES, DATELINED WASHINGTON, SAID
THAT THE ITC RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE PLACED THE FORD
ADMINISTRATION IN A "TRICKY POSITION" AND THAT THEY "CAN
HARDLY IMPROVE THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE GENEVA TRADE TALKS."
THE TIMES SAID YESTERDAY "STEEL MAKERS IN BRITAIN AND
OTHER COUNTRIES ARE CERTAIN TO REACT STRONGLY." GUARDIAN
ARTICLE MONDAY DATELINED BRUSSELS AND ENTITLED "BRITISH
STEEL FACES MORE PROBLEMS FROM THE U.S.," CALLED THE ACTION
"AN UNEXPECTED MOVE..ANY DECISION BY PRESIDENT FORD
TO INTRODUCE CONTROLS ON STEEL IMPORTS IS BOUND TO EXACER-
BATE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND THE UNITED STATES
WHICH HAVE BECOME STRAINED IN RECENT MONTHS OVER A NUMBER
OF TRADE ISSUES."

4. TUESDAY'S NEUE ZURCHER ZEITUNG UNDER WASHINGTON
DATELINE CALLED THE ACTION "BITTER MEDICINE." FRANK-
FURTER ALLEGEMEINE ZEITUNG POINTED OUT IN BALANCED STORY
FROM WASHINGTON THAT WHILE MAIN SUPPLYING COUNTRIES WILL
CRITICIZE THE ACTION AS PROTECTIONISM, "ALMOST ALL
NATIONAL LAWS CONTAIN SIMILAR ESCAPE CLAUSES."

5. PARISIAN FINANCIAL DAILY "LES ECHOS" MONDAY CARRIED
SHORT REPORT WITHOUT COMMENT. SWISS FINANCIAL NEWS
SERVICE, AGEFI, TUESDAY ALSO REPORTED ACTION WITHOUT
COMMENT. JOURNAL DE GENEVE, TUESDAY, HAD AGENCE FRANCE
PRESSE DISPATCH FROM WASHINGTON WHICH EMPHASIZED POLITICAL
IMPORTANCE OF PENNSYLVANIA IN ELECTION YEAR AND PREDICTED
STRONG REACTIONS BY U.S. TRADING PARTNERS WHO "WILL EMPHASIZE
THAT AMERICAN PROTECTIONISM THREATENS THE FUTURE OF THE
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PAGE 03 MTN GE 00396 201829Z

MTN. THEY WILL ALSO REMIND WASHINGTON THAT THE U.S.
CONDEMNED THE UK AT THE END OF LAST YEAR FOR IMPORT
RESTRICTIONS ON CERTAIN PRODUCTS."

6. WE WILL REPORT FURTHER SIGNIFICANT PRESS REACTION
AS APPROPRIATE. CULBERT

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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